

My Four Graphs Story

This activity is designed for students to demonstrate their ability to read, interpret and assimilate information presented into graphs and tables. The five diagrams show different aspects of a student's typical Saturday. Students in class write a story that meshes together some of the important details. They can choose to write in diary or narrative form in first or third person.

Four sets of graphs are provided with the graphs and concepts increasing in difficulty from Set A (up to Year 3), Set B (Year 4), Set C (Year 6) to Set D (Year 7). Using the four different graphs, students can work individually or begin in pairs to discuss their ideas.

It would also be possible for younger students to create a story based on just one or two of the graphs shown.

There are lots of opportunities for class discussions at all levels, e.g.

"What does typical mean?"

"What is the value of the whole circle in a pie graph?"

"What is the category 'Other'? Why do we need it?"

"What features do you notice in the Bar graph, dot plot....?"

"What features do all graphs have in common?"

"Which graph contains the main information you will need for your story?"

"How can you use the information in the other three graphs?"

"Do you need to put all the information shown in the graphs into your story?"

Some connections to the Australian Mathematics National Curriculum Statistics and Probability Content Strands are shown below

Year 3 Data representation and interpretation: Interpret and compare data displays.

Year 4 Data representation and interpretation: Evaluate the effectiveness of different displays in illustrating data features including variability.

Year 5 Data representation and interpretation: Describe and interpret different data sets in context.

Year 6 Data representation and interpretation: Interpret and compare a range of data displays, including side by side column graphs for two categorical variables.

Year 7 Data representation and interpretation: (Construct and) compare a range of data displays including stem-and-leaf plots.

Extension:

Access other similar lessons at www.abs.gov.au/education

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Date: _____

Students can download real data samples similar to those in this activity and make their own data displays and much more. Visit the ABS CensusAtSchool website to download data that has been compiled from the responses of students across Australia.